APPENDIX

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REPORT ON THE 38TH CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS (IFLA) Budapest, Hungary, August 26-September 2, 1972

[Editor's Note: This report is limited to the sessions which Library of Congress staff members who attended the conference were able to cover. Reports were contributed by Virginia Haviland, Head of the Children's Book Section; John G. Lorenz, Deputy Librarian of Congress; and Walter W. Ristow, Chief of the Geography and Map Division.]

Over 900 delegates and observers from 38 countries made this 38th session the largest IFLA General Council meeting in its history. This was partially the result of participation by some of the IFLA attendees in the annual meeting of the International Federation for Documentation, which followed the IFLA meeting, and a seminar for developing countries, which also took place in Budapest. One of the most significant actions of the conference was the approval of a new, modernized dues structure.

Meetings were held in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and simultaneous translation in the Conference languages of English, German, French, Russian was provided in the Ceremonial Hall and the Large Hall in the Academy building.

The theme of the Conference, "Reading in a Changing World," was included in many of the approximately 130 papers presented during the week. Since 1972 has been proclaimed by Unesco as International Book Year (IBY), there was emphasis on the significance of the book in the library and information programs throughout the world.

The Executive Board, the Consultative Committee, consisting of section and committee chairmen and secretaries, and the Program Development Group (PDG) held a number of separate sessions throughout the week. Because of a previous recommendation of the PDG that all sections and committees establish Standing Advisory Committees, the program provided times for these committees to meet.

The Consultative Committee in its first meeting approved continuation of the present PDG with the proviso that this December there will be designation of 1, 2, and 3-year terms for the present members. The meeting also reflected increasing international interest in Libraries and the use of audiovisual materials. The possibilities of this subject as a theme for the 1975 general conference and the formation of a working party in this field were outlined. Representatives of the International Association of Law Librarians and the International Association of Medical Librarians expressed an interest in closer affiliation with IFLA. Other topics included the possibility of organizing a Working Party in the field of conservation (preservation) to advise IFLA on what it should do and may find resources to do in this field.

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING, AUGUST 28

The opening meeting was held in the Ceremonial Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences at a plenary session which carried the Conference theme. Dr. Herman Liebaers, Director of the Royal Library of Belgium and President of IFLA, presided. Dr. László Orbán, First Deputy Minister of Culture for Hungary, on behalf of the host country, welcomed the delegates to Budapest.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Liebaers paid tribute to the late Pierre Bourgeois, President of IFLA from 1952 to 1958, and to Cardinal Tisserant and Ambassador Breycha-Vauthier, recently-deceased honorary members. Noting that IFLA was celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, President Liebaers proposed that a biographical dictionary of distinguished librarians who had contributed to IFLA's growth and advancement might be prepared to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Association.

The President noted that the theme for the General Council meeting was focused on the celebration of IBY, and expressed the hope that the sessions would make a major contribution toward achieving the goals of IBY.

Dr. Liebaers repeated his desire, first expressed a year ago at the Liverpool General Council meeting, for a wider representation in IFLA membership. He was pleased to report that a number of new member associations from developing countries have recently joined the Federation.

In reporting progress toward Universal Bibliographic Control (UBC), Dr. Liebaers said, "IFLA action in this field has been able to take shape because the new Cataloguing Secretariat set up in London is prepared to act as a coordinating agency and because our Committee on Cataloguing has

already quite independently tackled some of the problems now brought under the roof of UBC. These problems are that an authoritative record of each new publication is made speedily in the country of origin of the publication, and that the form and content of such records follow international standards which will make them readily comprehensible and usable in all countries. There is no doubt that the implementation will require a series of meetings at different levels of specialization, which call for careful coordination in, and even outside, IFLA. Unesco and LIBER [Lique des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche] have already show interest in the programme, which also has to take into account initiatives like Shared Cataloguing, MARC II, BNB [British National Bibliography], the German Seminars of 1970 in Regensburg and 1971 in Berlin, etc. Fortunately the experts involved in all these problems form a highly competent IFLA team, which is proving to the outside world that international librarianship has reached the level of effective technical action."

In closing, Dr. Liebaers wondered "if the world in which we live is not too large for an international organization like ours. That the problems have a magnitude which is out of proportion with the size of the good will or competence with which we try to cope with them. There are moments when one would like to forget about libraries and go back to books. But life also provides other moments."

"Not so long ago," he remarked, "I was in Washington. My presence coincided with the opening at the Library of Congress of an exhibition celebrating the 750th anniversary of the Golden Bull of Hungary. Only a coincidence, of course, but so helpful when you want to forget about the difficulties which assail international solidarity."

READING IN A CHANGING WORLD I, August 28

Foster Mohrhardt, Council on Library Resources in Washington, D.C., introduced the Conference theme by calling attention to the overwhelming list of library activities and projects which had been stimulated by International Book Year. IBY, he recalled, "tried to alert the general public to the importance of books today and to promote interest in books.

"We have listened intently and patiently to our critics—or enemies," Dr. Mohrhardt noted. "Now it is important for the friends of books to reappraise the position of books and to consider the importance of reading."

Dr. Mohrhardt introducted two noted Hungarian scholars who discussed books, libraries, and writing in Hungary. László Mátrai, General Director of the University Library and President of the Association of Hungarian Libraries, dealt with the subject "Tradition and Innovation: Reading in a Changing Country." In his paper, Professor Mátrai summarized the historical development of libraries in Hungary since the Middle Ages. The tradition of public libraries, however, is a recent development. Professor Mátrai concluded that "there is still a lot of work to do in the field of sociological investigations concerning reading, particularly in a country where a social revolution has taken place." Librarians, he said, "ought to cooperate in carrying out complex researches, not only with pedagogues, but with sociologists, psychiatrists, and even with the philosophers of history."

József Darvas, President of the Hungarian Association of Authors, greeted the assembled librarians "not only as allies but as fellow-creators." A major task of librarians, he emphasized, is "to transmit books to as many people as possible," not only to hands but to minds.

Mr. Darvas reported that two years ago the Association of Hungarian Writers launched a nationwide campaign to develop reading, with the slogan "For a reading country." Cooperating in the campaign are official agencies, schools, the press, radio, and various social organizations. "It is not necessary to stress," observed Mr. Darvas, "that the most enthusiastic workers of the campaign are, in fact, the librarians."

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Darvas said that "the book can do much. It can serve in this divided world the cause of human integration and understanding. It is worthwhile to make alliances for this cause with all who believe in the future of books and culture."

READING IN A CHANGING WORLD II, August 28

The second plenary session opened with a keynote address by bibliophile Gordon N. Ray, President of the Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Entitled "Books as a Way of Life," his paper presented a bookman's defense of the book and the book-centered society against the "anti-book" situation and use of substitutes today. He noted the publishers' shrinking backlists/and the stress on new books chosen "more for their commercial possibilities than their substantive interest." Refuting Marshall McLuhan on the emergence of electronic media and the demise of the book, Dr. Ray pointed to the fact that painting was not destroyed by the challenge of photography. So, he said, it will surely be with books and reading.

Citing the story of Donald Barthelme's TV-conditioned daughter who reported that her mother was "watching a book," he affirmed, "Children can be weaned from the media to books, particularly if the volumes they are given take maximum advantage of visual attractiveness through striking design, large print, and lively illustrations, and with bright children at least the transition is apt to be permanent. . . . Intellectual expenditure imparts value to its object, and children will regard books which they have read consecutively and retentively with a certain awe and reverence. It is thus that bookmen are born."

Dr. Ray said he regards claims for the use of videotapes in teaching with scepticism. Education comes through self-selected reading outside of class—not from passive viewing. Even the TV films on "Civilization," he said, do not as themselves constitute teaching but serve as adjuncts to education, to be viewed in the evening.

Dr. Ray stressed, ". . . a developing curiosity about the past, fed by wide reading, is the very basis of humanistic education. . . . Through such reading one acquires the sense of life's possibilities and limitations that is the mark of the educated man. . . . So it is that books add a fourth dimension to one's life, and the ability to return at will through books to familiar countries of the mind becomes both a relaxing and a stabilizing influence that enhances the individual's value to society."

In discussing IBY, Dr. Ray cited the project of the Ministry of Education in France in which couples being married in civil ceremonies are presented with one of two sets of five French classics.

Dr. Ray concluded, "Admirable as are the special efforts signalizing the International Book Year, however, they remain in a sense the foam at the crest of the wave. The book operates like a force of nature . . . as long as readers in general have simple and easy access to it, it will go on making its millions of individual converts and spreading its beneficent influence. If not only librarians but bookmen generally ensure that what might be called the ecology of the book is not disturbed, it will continue to be the best friend mankind ever had."

The next speaker was F. L. Popp of Vienna, Secretary of the International Community of Booksellers' Associations. [His paper was not printed.] Mr. Popp looked at the production and distribution of books from the bookseller's point of view, including aspects of competition in selling and today's high prices. Noting a decrease in the number of bookshops, as, for example, in Sweden, he said future book trade development will depend on a heightened demand for better books and an increasing thirst for knowledge.

A third contribution to the session was made by Miklós Hubay, a dramatist and representative of the International Council of Authors and Translators. Mr. Hubay called for the translation of literature in isolated languages, such as Hungarian, in order "to make the best of these literatures a living experience for humanity." He suggested that major editors each specialize in a single, isolated language. "Great languages are responsible to humanity for not letting ideas and substantial writings of small languages get lost for universality," he said.

READING IN A CHANGING WORLD III, August 30

Three speakers contributed to the third plenary session. Dr. O. S. Chubaryan of the U.S.S.R., a Moscow specialist in pedagogy who has been a pioneer in developing the theory of librarianship in his country, emphasized in his paper the organization of public reading. Noting that reading is no longer a privilege of the chosen few but a mass phenomenon, he said the role of the book is changing. His conclusions were: (1) Despite growth in the popularity of reading, much must be done to instill habits of reading; (2) A major problem is that of increasing the intensity (amount) of reading; (3) A systematic use of books is needed; (4) National systems of organizing mass reading and the place of libraries in these systems must be considered. All communicative means must cooperate, including radio, TV, and the press. It must be recognized that libraries are the chief organizers of mass reading, through a network of libraries evenly distributed through the country; and (5) International cooperation is needed on questions of mass reading.

John Boon, a British publisher (Mills and Boon in London) and President of the International Publishers Association, contributed a paper centered on "the most important questions a publisher must ask himself—the future of the book."

Comparing books with nonbook materials, Mr. Boon upheld the efficiency and economical quality of the book as a teaching machine. Considering the publisher's worries about book prices, he pointed to two areas of marketing and planning which have lowered prices: the paperback and the method of co-publishing highly illustrated books. He also called attention to problems of photocopying and book distribution (the need for well-educated booksellers).

Throughout his talk, Mr. Boon stressed the need for unity in the book trade—of librarians, publishers, and

booksellers–and the identity of interest which exists regardless of creed, faith, or political system, or of degree of development of a country. He concluded by saying that "those working with books are mostly a civilized group, concerned with human rights, humane behaviour, good international relations, and peace."

The session ended with an abstract of a paper by Robert Escarpit, sociology professor at the University of Bordeaux, entitled "La Lecture dans un Monde en Mouvement." The abstract was presented by a French colleague of Mr. Escarpit. The paper contained hopeful notes that the reading population is increasing and that it is reading more. As a result, bigger editions of books are being printed. He commented, as did earlier speakers, on the relation between books and other media, noting that nothing replaces the direct relationship with the document, provided in the library. He stressed that acquaintance with books from early childhood is necessary.

COMMITTEE ON STATISTICS AND STANDARDS

The Committee met in four sessions during the Conference. Kenneth Mallaber of the United Kingdom and F. W. Torrington, Secretary of the Committee, presented a paper for discussion by the Working Group on Audio Visual Aids at a session on August 27.

A paper by Mirko Velinsky, of Czechoslovakia, entitled "Interpretation and Analysis of Library Use and Activities," was read and discussed on August 29. Also presented at this session was a paper by William H. Kurth of the United States on "Price Indexes for Library Materials: The Need on an International Basis." M. Babic, Chief of the Division of Statistics on Culture and Communication at Unesco, was present and made available copies of the 1971 Unesco questionnaire on Statistics on Libraries which is now being completed by member states of Unesco. The new questionnaire includes questions on physical facilities which were developed by the IFLA Committee.

At the August 30 session, Eugene Fenelonov of the U.S.S.R. presented a paper on the status of national statistics of libraries in the U.S.S.R., and Frank L. Schick of the United States had a similar paper on the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland. On the same program, Otto Lohmann of Marburg presented a significant paper on the standardization problems of IFLA since 1971.

At the Standing Advisory Committee session on August 31, plans for future activities for the Committee were made, including future cooperation with FID. F. W. Torrington of the United Kingdom, who had served as Committee Secretary, was elected the new Chairman, succeeding John G. Lorenz. Mr. Schick was elected Secretary.

LIBRARY WORK WITH CHILDREN SUB-SECTION

The Sub-section held two meetings on August 29, conducted by Chairman Colin Ray of the School of Librarianship in Birmingham, England. The program session consisted of three scheduled papers on current trends in children's literature plus a fourth paper on Hungarian children's library service.

Virginia Haviland presented a paper revealing current interests of children and young people in the United States and the publication of books which meet these concerns. Her paper dealt with the realism of contemporary fiction related to social and personal problems, the production of books to meet many different minority interests, the paperback book explosion, and recent activities in the United States designed to improve the criticism of children's books and to recognize IBY.

Walter Scherf, Director of the International Youth Library in Munich, dealt with the same theme, but with a worldwide view of book-producing countries. Dr. Scherf raised such questions as: Have our best, really representative books been translated? What have we received that is truly representative of other countries? In answering the question, Where in the market are the most sigificant changes occurring? he stated, "The provision of literature for ethnic minorities is developing throughout the world to an amazing extent, for various reasons." The concern of librarians to cover minority literatures in their general services is also increasing." Among the current changes he cited were the expansion of the Japanese publishing trade with European offices to facilitate joint production; a halt in the translations program and all economically risky material in Sweden and Finland; and changes in literature themes, representing social, family, and minority problems. He noted that interest in children's literature in the great scholarly libraries is growing. "For this we are not least indebted to the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in Berlin and the Library of Congress in Washington," he said.

"Children's Literature in the Future," a paper by Balazs Vargha related to Hungarian experiences concerning a problem of general interest, was also presented. Mr. Vargha, Senior Member of the Center for Library Science and Methodology in Budapest, regularly produces book-centered TV programs

including one in which young people interview authors who read from their works on the air. Children's librarians attending IFLA viewed an interview program.

Mr. Vargha stressed that "children's books, published lately, cannot come anywhere near the classics . . . or come too near . . . becoming mere imitators." He noted that the list of children's classics is growing perceptibly but recognized also the alarming influence of the amount of comic book reading and indiscriminate television viewing. There must be, he emphasized, an urgent reinterpretation of criteria for children's books and efforts to "increase the scope of influence of books."

The Sub-section's business session included a report by Mrs. Aase Bredsdorff of the State Inspection of Libraries, Denmark, on the draft revision of *Public Library Standards* which includes statements relevant to children's libraries.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES SECTION GEOGRAPHY AND MAP LIBRARIES SUB-SECTION

The Sub-section, one of the youngest of IFLA's functional units, was organized at the Copenhagen General Council Meeting in 1969, held its first sessions in Moscow in 1970, and meets in alternate even-numbered years.

Some 30 map librarians from Hungary, Finland, U.S.S.R. Netherlands, Federal Republic of Germany, United States, France, Denmark, Sweden, Jamaica, Poland, and Switzerland participated in the Sub-section's sessions and tours.

At the August 29 business meeting, Walter Ristow, reported on the progress of the *World Directory of Map Collections*, a Sub-section project for which questionnaires were mailed in June and July to some 400 map libraries throughout the world.

Papers read at the Sub-section professional session on August 31 were "Inventory of Maps and Cartographical Material in the Federal Republic of Germany" by Lothar Zögner, Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in Berlin; "Maps and Their Use in Soviet Libraries" by Dr. Anna V. Kozlova, Lenin State Library, Moscow, and Dr. Iraida I. Kodes, Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library, Leningrad; and "*Cartactual* in the Map Library" by Ernó Csáti, Institute of Surveying, Budapest.

On August 30, Sub-section members visited Hungary's National Mapping and Surveying Office and toured the library and map collection, and the *Cartactual* compilation section. *Cartactual* is a bi-weekly serial service which supplies up-to-date geographical and cartographical data for all countries of the world. On August 31, the group visited the facilities of the Map Department of the Hungarian National Library.

COMMITTEE ON CATALOGING AND COMMITTEE ON PERIODICALS AND SERIAL PUBLICATIONS

A program session of the Committees took place August 29 when M. Boussat of France presented the draft recommendations of the Joint Working Group on an International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials.

At the program meeting of the Committee on Serial Publications on August 29, M. Rosenbaum, Director of the International Centre for the Registration of Serial Publications, Paris, described the function and objectives of the International Serials Data System (ISDS) which was established under the framework of UNISIST by agreement between the French government and Unesco. Its functions are: to develop a basic international file of serials in machine readable form; to publish an international register of serial publications; to promote the establishment of a worldwide network of National and Regional Centres; to register serials published in countries which cannot or do not choose to establish National Centres; to manage the International Standard Serial Number; and to establish close coordination between ISDS and other International Organisations.

Responsibility for establishment of National Centres rests with the governments participating in the UNISIST program. (National centers already included in the international system are in France, Germany, and the United States.) The International Centre is preparing a paper outlining the organization of ISDS in detail and defining data elements in the communication format. It will be available in October as a UNISIST document under the title "Guidelines to ISDS."

COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS AND COMMITTEE ON EXCHANGE OF PUBLICATIONS JOINT MEETING

The meeting took place August 31 to discuss the planned revision of the Unesco Handbook on the International Exchange of Publications and the Seminar on International Exchange of Publications which was held in April 1972 in Vienna.

COMMITTEE ON MECHANIZATION

At the meeting on August 31, Committee President

W. Lingenberg began his report by recognizing G. Pflug of the German Federal Republic for his dedicated work as the Committee's past President, and A. L. van Wesemael of the Netherlands, the new Committee Secretary. The President and Secretary will serve ex officio on an Advisory Board which is planning future committee work. The President reported on a UNISIST Government Conference held in October 1971 in Paris. He and the Secretary were among the IFLA representatives at the meeting who attempted to express to the group the genuine interest among professional librarians in the scope of the UNISIST system in general and their desire to participate in any efforts toward development and standardization of mechanized systems in the UNISIST frame.

Mr. Lingenberg mentioned that UNISIST's draft "Reference Manual for the Preparation of Machine-Readable Bibliographic Descriptions" has only recently come to the attention of IFLA and librarians. Some documentation centers are being asked to test the manual. The Committee is working closely with the Committee on Cataloging to determine whether IFLA should have a resolution on the draft. The Committee will be working with other IFLA committees concerning the handling of bibliographical data in machine-readable form. Mr. Lingenberg stressed the urgency for standardization of library methods and data structure and the need for international cooperation of librarians in the application software for already existing hardware. There was approval for the establishment of a working group on content designators (tags, subfield codes, and indicators) in order to standardize those "address codes" for bibliographical elements.

Mrs. Henriette Avram, Chief of the MARC Development Office at the Library of Congress, was unable to attend the Conference and her paper, "Format Recognition," was read by Mr. Lorenz. The paper outlines this successful development at the Library of Congress which has reduced the cost of creating bibliographic records in machine-readable form and concludes that this work will be further assisted by the wider use of the International Standard Bibliographic Description and eventually international agreement on cataloging codes and content designators.

A paper by L. Tokes of Budapest on "Reprography in Hungary" was also presented.

FINAL PLENARY SESSION

At the September 2 session, President Liebaers received the reports of the General Secretary and the Treasurer, and the resolutions and statements of the sections, committees, and working groups. These, he announced, would be transmitted to IFLA's Consultative Committee, and published in the forthcoming issue of *IFLA News*.

The names of five individuals were recommended by the Consultative Committee as candidates for a vacancy on the Executive Board. The vote by official delegates resulted in the election of J. Lethéve of France.

The IFLA medal was presented to Dr. Mohrhardt, who had organized the three sessions on IBY.

The President reminded the delegates and observers that the 1973 IFLA General Council will be held in Grenoble, from August 25 through September 1.

IFLA Council Member Robert Vosper, Director of Libraries, University of California at Los Angeles, extended an invitation to the Council, on behalf of the United States, to meet in Washington, D.C., in December 1974. The proposed theme for the Washington, D.C. General Council Meeting is National and International Planning for Libraries.